

THE BROTHEL NEXT DOOR

Human trafficking abounds in Maryland, yet few are convicted

The Trafficked: Unseen, Uncounted
Maryland officials pledged three years ago to improve anti-trafficking efforts by collecting and sharing evidence of the problem from "every part of government." They never followed through.

Baltimore City: Zero Convictions

The Trap: A Victim's Testimony

The Crime: A Misdeemeanor

Langley Park: Unwelcome Neighbors

The Help: Slavery at Home

<http://cnsmaryland.org/human-trafficking/>

SEA LEVEL RISE in Maryland

A new analysis by Capital News Service found that nearly a million Maryland residents live in neighborhoods that could be affected. Some of the most vulnerable areas include... **1 ft**

See in-depth Interactive Map

What's at risk?

Community | **Real Estate** | History | Infrastructure | Tourism


<http://cnsmaryland.org/sealevelrise/>

MAESTROING STUDENT PROJECTS
PHILIP MERRILL COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

THE BROTHEL NEXT DOOR

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A 22-year-old was held against her will in this suburban Columbia hotel




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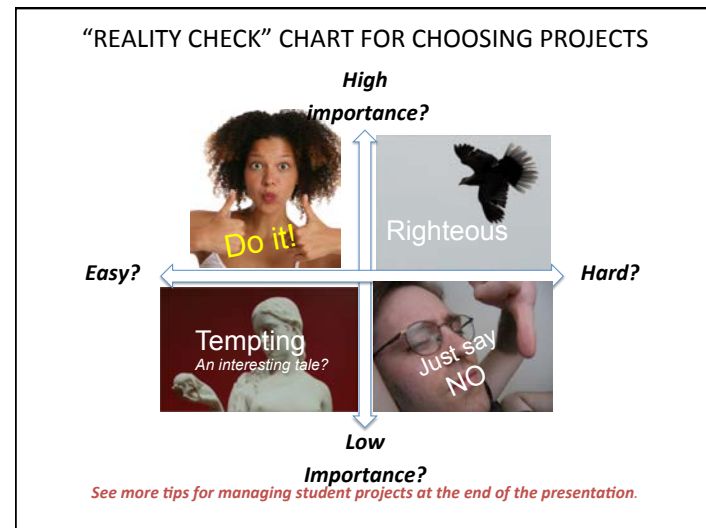
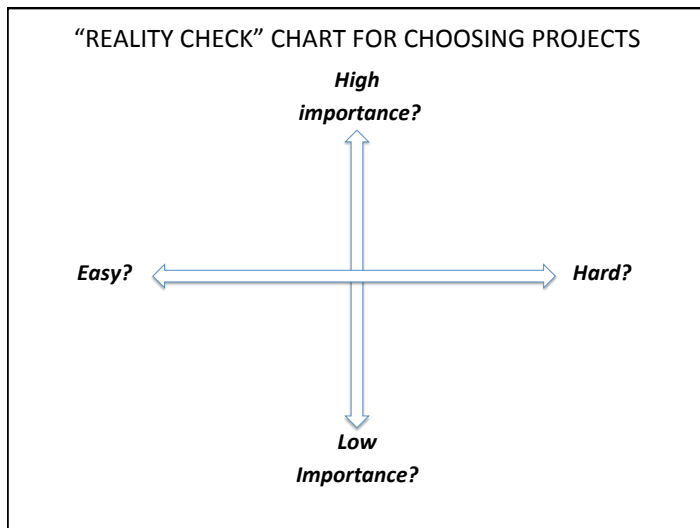
So Capital News Service did its own examination. Reporters pored over thousands of pages of police records, prosecution data and court files. The investigation found widespread evidence of human trafficking but few convictions.

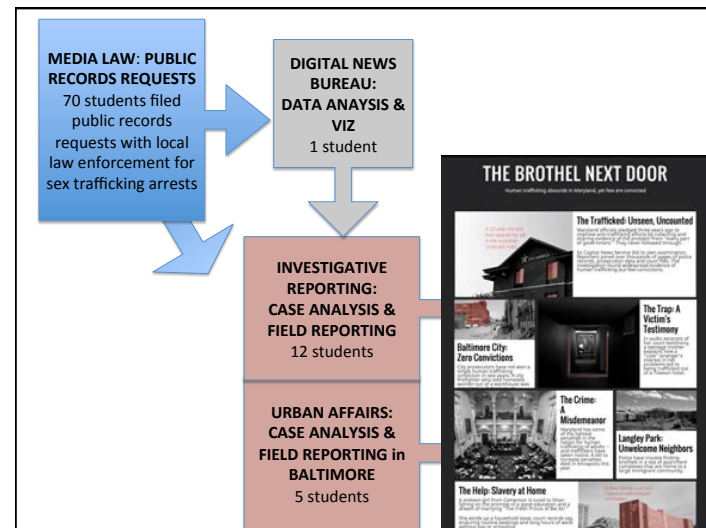
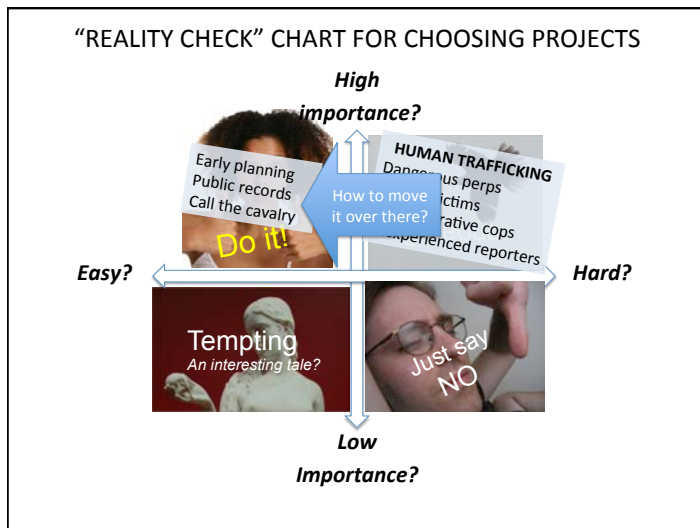
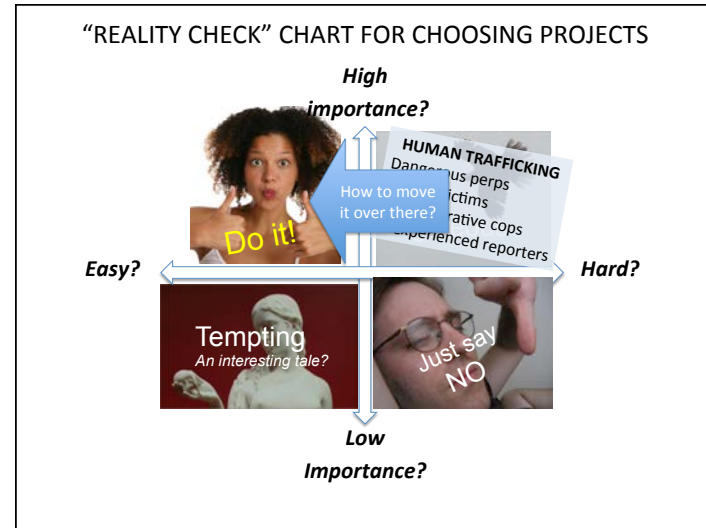
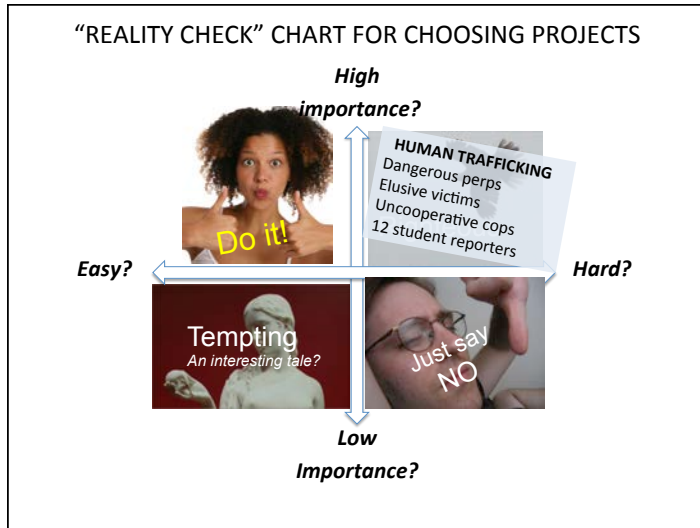
<http://cnsmaryland.org/human-trafficking/>



The Trap: A Victim's Testimony

In audio excerpts of her





MEDIA LAW: PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS
 70 students filed public records requests with local law enforcement for sex trafficking arrests

Each media law student:

- was given a government agency and set of records to request.
- researched the law to support their argument for disclosure
- determined where/how to submit the request, sent it and then followed up frequently by phone and email
- negotiated to lower fees and overcome resistance
- updated status in a Google Drive
- wrote a final memo on the legal issues that and what the records showed.

POLICE RECORDS: AN ADDRESS GOLDMINE




Some plusses:

- Hands-on experience using investigative tools and strategies
- Real-time problem solving guidance from experienced faculty
- Valuable resource for school projects and professional projects
- High marks on course evaluations
- Thank you notes from alums for years to come


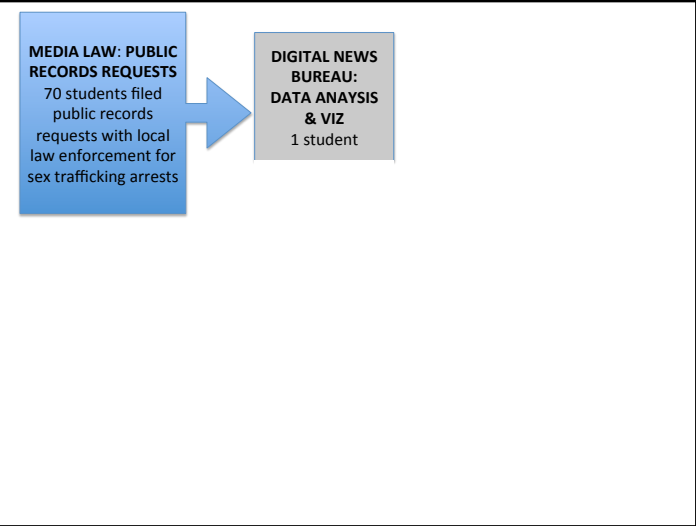
Some minuses:

- Requires intense, sustained organization by the teacher
- Weak students = gaps in the records
- You can't really penalize students for failing to get records – just for failing to try hard enough.

A 22-year-old was held against her will in this suburban Columbia hotel

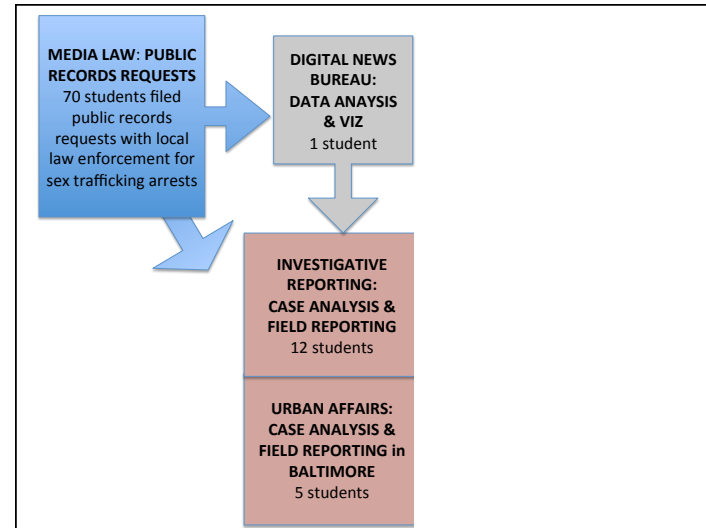


She thought her "escort" job would involve meeting celebrities.

Our Digital News Bureau "correspondent":

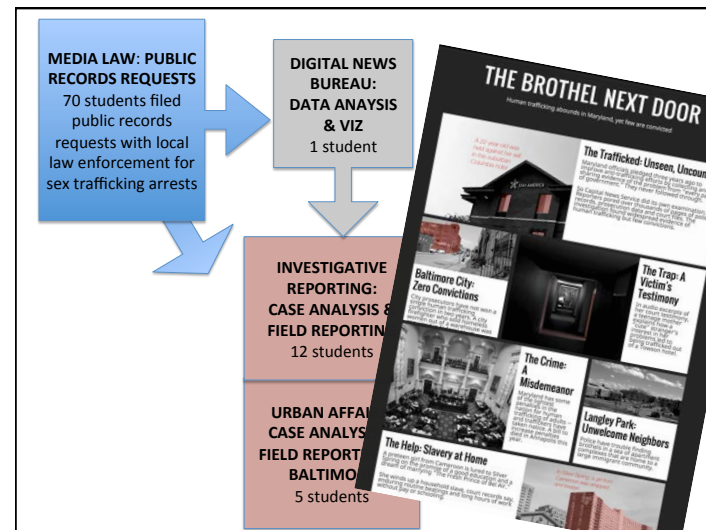
- analyzed a statewide arrest and prosecution database obtained thru FOI
- transformed the statistics into visualizations
- identified trends



Students in the two reporting classes used the law enforcement records, data analysis + their own search through court files to:

- develop case studies
- build a Google Drive database of case characteristics
- identify addresses of trafficking operations for photos
- identify police, attorneys, victims defendants to interview
- find compelling audio and video

COURT FILES: A MULTIMEDIA GOLDMINE





- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p>INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING
<i>Prof Deb Nelson</i>
Lisa Driscoll
Naomi Eide
Jessica Evans
Katelyn Secret
Alexis Jenkins
Melanie Kozak
Courtney Mabeus
Ana Mulero
Alexis Saunders
Ben Strack
Natalie Tomlin
Fatimah Waseem</p> <p>BALTIMORE URBAN AFFAIRS REPORTING
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Mara Bernstein
Hayley Goodman
Carly Morales</p> <p>CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE
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Sarah Dean
Omar DeBrew
Nicole Dei
Rachel Dooley
Nicole Ebanks
Matthew Ellentuck
Ryan Eskalis
Danielle Frontin
Verna Gibson
Dayna Gillespie
Alex Givan
Benjamin Harris</p> | <p>Bailey Hayek
Bethany Hooper
Andrew Horn
Giovanni Insignares
Jessie Karangu
Kai Keefe
Alexandra Kessel
Renee Klahr
Matt Kubisiak
Kevin LaFrancis
Sheng Chi Lim
Tisha Claudia Lim
Jessica Marquez
Brian Marron
Madison Martin
Alicia McElhaney
Timothy Meehan
Alec Milton
Miles Moore
Carly Morales
Jennifer Munoz
Janelle Netterville
Kaitlin Nizolek
Daisy-Nelly
Ngum Nji</p> | <p>Danielle Ohl
Nicholas Pagliarulo
Alexandra Paonetti
Galen David Rende
Talia Richman
Zoe Sagalow
Lauren Sagl
Lena Salzbank
Javi Scott
Michael Siegel
Justina Nicole Simmons
Theresa Sintetos
Iman Smith
Eric Sumner
Erik Swann
Jacqueline Tanner
Tori Tanner
Nicole Tapiero
Colleen Toohy
Agnes Varghese
Kierstin Vermeulen
Taylor Watford
Daniel Weintraub
Joseph Zimmermann</p> |
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SEA LEVEL RISE

in Maryland

A PHILIP COLLEGE INVESTIGATIVE

Sea levels are rising worldwide, but they are rising two to three times faster in the Chesapeake Bay.

A new analysis by Capital News Service finds that nearly a million Maryland residents live in neighborhoods that could be affected. Some of the state's most iconic places -- Fells Point in Baltimore, Harriet Tubman's birthplace, and Fort McHenry, home of the national anthem -- are at risk.

See In-depth Interactive Map

<http://cnsmaryland.org/sealevelrise/>

SEA LEVEL RISE in Maryland

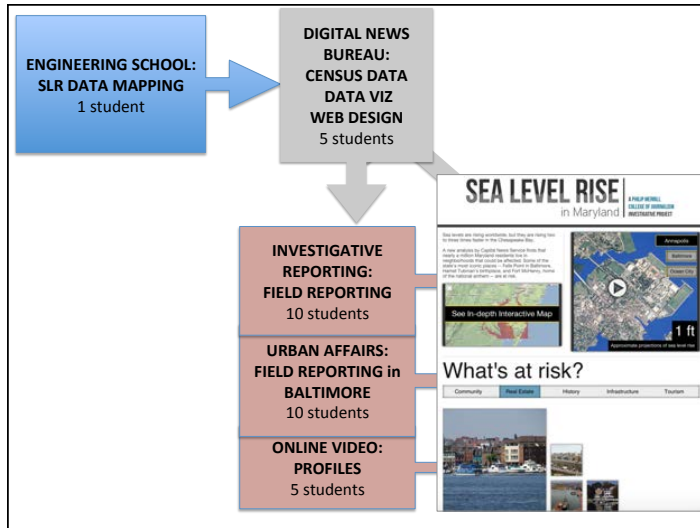
A PHILIP COLLEGE INVESTIGATIVE

See In-depth Interactive Map

1 ft

3 ft

5 ft



GENERAL TIPS

Picking the story: For team projects, pick a topic that affects or interests students. Whether team or individual projects, consider student skill level, difficulty, time, importance, budget.

Skill training: Keep lectures brief and focused on one skill each class. Have them use it to advance the story immediately, preferably during class time when you can provide real-time advice and feedback.

Organization: Before each class, have them upload all interview notes and documents to their own folder in Google Drive and share with you.

Writing: Have them write **footnoted*** stories/scripts early & often. Let them see how dramatically their first story changes as they dig deeper.

***Footnotes help:**

- reporters keep track of where they got their information
- you assess the reliability of their information
- the fact checker determine accuracy and spot errors

Footnotes should have links to internet sources + Google Drive documents and notes. Info for human sources: phone, email, link to notes, bio.

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Footnotes should have links to internet sources + Google Drive documents and notes. Info from human sources should include name, phone number and email address.

Deadline: Set the "final" story deadline *at least* a month before the last class. Reserve the last month for polish, fact check, data viz, production.

Fact check: Assign each student to do a word-by-word fact check of another student's story – and give them a grade. I tell the fact-checker and writer that they will get an F as 50% of their grade for the semester if there is an error in the final published version. No penalty if they find the error before publication – to encourage them to be vigorous.

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